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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/623,294	07/18/2003	M. Steve Lessley	14120	4116

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EXAMINER

LAMB, BRENDA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1734

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/17/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/623,294	Applicant(s) LESSLEY ET AL.	
	Examiner Brenda A. Lamb	Art Unit 1734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14, 17-27, 29-31, 33 and 34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 22-27, 29-31 and 34 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14, 17-21 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 14, 20 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mullins et al.

Mullins et al teaches the design of a strand coating system, comprising an adhesive dispensing device 11 having an adhesive dispensing orifice 14; a strand guide member (roll shown as being arranged housing 21; a strand axial orientation aligning member 17 coupled to the adhesive dispensing device, the strand axial orientation

aligning member positioned in substantial alignment with the adhesive dispensing orifice, the strand axial orientation aligning member disposed between the strand guide member and the adhesive dispensing orifice, the strand axial orientation aligning member is a pin having an axis extending substantially transverse to an axis along which strand is drawn past the adhesive dispensing device. Mullins teaches every element of the claimed apparatus as set forth in claim 14. With respect to claim 20, Mullins et al shows in Figure 2 the strand guide member includes a strand guide member not aligned with the adhesive dispensing orifice and strand axial orientation aligning member. With respect to claim 33, as discussed above, Mullins et al teaches in Figure 2 the design of a strand coating system, comprising an adhesive dispensing device having an adhesive dispensing orifice; a strand guide member; a strand axial orientation aligning member coupled to the adhesive dispensing device, the strand axial orientation aligning member having an axial dimension substantially parallel to a direction of the adhesive dispensing orifice (see Figure 1), the strand axial orientation aligning member positioned in substantial alignment with the adhesive dispensing orifice, the strand axial orientation aligning member disposed between the strand guide member and the adhesive dispensing orifice. Mullins et al teaches the adhesive dispensing device includes an adhesive dispensing nozzle apparatus coupled to a module or unit or applicator body, the strand axial orientation aligning member coupled to the module.

Claims 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mullins et al in view of Takahashi et al.

Mullins et al are applied for the reasons noted above. Mullins et al fails to teach the strand guide member is coupled to a module. However, it would have been obvious to adjustably couple the Mullins et al continuous length substrate guide member within the module or unit or housing for the coating assembly since Takahashi et al teaches adjustably couple the continuous length substrate guide member within the module for the obvious advantage of greater control of the process of coating the strand by enabling one to position the strand in and out of contact with the coating head.

Claims 14 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bolyard, Jr 2002/088392 in view of Kwok 6,077,375.

Bolyard, Jr teaches in Figure 5 the design of a strand coating system, comprising an adhesive dispensing device having a plurality of adhesive dispensing orifices; a strand axial orientation aligning member 50 coupled to the adhesive dispensing device, the strand axial orientation aligning member having recessed side portions or grooves positioned in substantial alignment or in line with the adhesive dispensing orifices, the strand axial orientation aligning member is a pin having an axis extending substantially transverse to an axis along which strand is drawn past the adhesive dispensing device. The Bolyard, Jr fails to teach a strand guide member as being downstream of the adhesive dispensing device and strand axial orientation aligning member such that strand axial orientation aligning member is disposed between the strand guide member and the adhesive dispensing orifice. However, it would have been prima facie obvious to arrange a strand guide member downstream of the Bolyard, Jr adhesive dispensing device since Kwok teaches arranging a support roller downstream of the applicator for

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the obvious advantage of facilitating support and travel of the strand downstream of the applicator.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "the strand axial orientation aligning member" lacks proper antecedent basis. Note it is unclear how the recitation in claim 17 that the aligning member is a pin having an axis extending substantially parallel to a direction in which adhesive is dispensed from the adhesive dispensing orifice further limit claim 34 since applicant in claim 34 that the strand orienting pin which is the aligning member is substantially parallel to a direction of the fluid dispensing orifice.

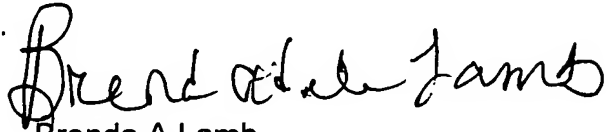
Claims 22-27,29-31 and 34 are allowed.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brenda A. Lamb whose telephone number is (571) 272-1231. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Wednesdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Philip Tucker, can be reached on (571) 272-1095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Brenda A Lamb
Examiner
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